of the Public Sector Undertakings under the Ministry of Power from the State Governments and the State Electricity Boards as on 31st December, 1996 is enclosed at Annexure [*See Appendix 180, Annexure No. 13*].

(b) The State-wise figures of the Central Plan Assistance payable to the State Governments during 1996-97 are enclosed as statement (*See* below).

(c) Government of India has taken a decision to deduct the outstandings dues, as on November/December, 1996 of Public Sector Undertakings under Ministries of Power, Railways, Coal and Department of Atomic Energy through Central Appropriation, upto a maximum of 15% of the Central Plan Assistance payable to the State Governments annually.

(d) The means explored to make up the losses incurred by the NTPC due to non-payment of these dues include deduction from the Central Plan Assistance, opening of irrevocable Letters of Credit by the SEBs with the Corporation and requesting the SEBs/ State Government for early clearance of the dues both by the Corporation and the Government of India.

Statement

Dues of Central Power Sector Undertakings from SEBs

Statement indicating the state-wise figures of Central Plan Assistance to State Governments during 1996-97

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Amount (Rs. crores)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	918.02
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	445.35
3.	Assam	1100.50
4.	Bihar	1258.07
5.	Goa	60.89
6.	Gujarat	383.66
7.	Haryana	227.45
8.	Himachal Pradesh	459.87
9.	J&K	1124.78
10.	Karnataka	443.24
11.	Kerala	485.08
12.	Madhya Pradesh	823.33
13.	Maharashtra	667.02
14.	Manipur	316.30
15.	Meghalaya	264.37
16.	Mizoram	263.37
17.	Nagaland	270.02
18.	Orissa	515.60
19.	Punjab	238.51
20.	Rajasthan	570.94
21.	Sikkim	188.33
22.	Tamil Nadu	752.50
23.	Tripura	336.59
24.	Uttar Pradesh	1841.41
25.	West Bengal	859.59
	TOTAL	14814.32

Power failure in Delhi

653. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY:
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there have been frequent power failures in Delhi during the last three severe cold months;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what measures are being taken to supply uninterrupted power in Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Frequent power failure during last 3 months in Delhi were due to following reasons:

i. Gap in demand and supply of power and tendency of all constituents of Northern States to over draw power from the grid resulting in grid disturbances.

ii. Inadequate shunt capacity in the system and consequently poor system conditions leading to tripping of generating units, mostly in the thermal power stations.

iii. Restriction of power supply by NTPC to the extent of payment being made by DESU.

(c) Measures being taken to improve the power supply position in Delhi include the following:

i. All States in the Northern Region have been asked to restrict their drawal to their entitled share and obey the instructions of NREB in this regard.

ii. Maximise generation from the existing units.

iii. DESU has been requested to increase the payment to NTPC for Badarpur and other Stations of the Region.

iv. DESU has been advised to carry out the demand side management so that the grid is not disturbed in the event of short supply of power.

Setting up of Tariff Boards

654. SHRI JAYANT KUMAR MALHOUTRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the recently held National Development Council Meeting, Chief Ministers of various States have urged the Central Government to take immediate action for setting up of national/regional tariff boards, with a view to rationalise power tariffs; and

(b) if so, the action taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) and (b) In the meeting of the National Development Council to discuss the Approach Paper to the Ninth Five Year Plan (1997—2002), the rationalisation of the Tariff Structure was also, *inter-alia*, raised by some of the Chief Ministers in the meeting.

The Government have also finalised and adopted a Common Minimum National Action Plan for Power which, *inter-alia*, provides for the constitution of Central and State Electricity Regulatory Commissions and rationalisation of Tariffs.

Frequent power cuts in the Northern States

655. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the main reasons for frequent power cuts in States in the Northern Grid; and

(b) what is the long term antidote to the ongoing power crisis in the capital and surrounding areas of the Northern region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) There is a gap in demand and supply of Power. It is, therefore, necessary to resort to power cuts/restrictions to various categories of consumers to contain the demand within the availability.

(b) Raising the power generation to match the demand is the long term solution to the present power crisis. To achieve this following steps are required:—

i. Maximising the generation from the existing capacity.

ii. Renovation & Modernisation of Units.

iii. Reduction of T&D losses.

iv. Demand management and energy conservation measures.

v. Arranging the transfer of power from neighbouring system/states; and

vi. Expediting the commissioning of new power projects.